§m

The characteristic feature of our modern civilisation is a technical progress, which has had a widespread influence upon the amenities of life in all countries and in every class of the community. This, in the last resort, is dependent to a very large extent upon physical and mathematical advances: with the result that those who have led in these spheres may be reckoned among the benefactors of the modern world. It is perhaps in instinctive appreciation of this fact that Albert Einstein, the full implications of whose Theory of Relativity can be appreciated only by very few, has received in our day an unexampled degree of public recognition. But, among the workers in the same field whose names are indubitably in the first rank, are several more of Jewish birth or descent; the great physicist, Niels Bohr, Danish on his father's side and Jewish on his mother's: James Franck, youngest of all Nobel Prizemen, who received the award in 1926 for his experimental confirmation of the Quantum Theory, and his associate, Gustav Hertz, given the prize in Physics for research in the theories of atoms: Albert Abraham Michelson, the American whose experiments broke down the theory of a stationary ether which had previously prevailed, through which all motion took place and the transmission of light and electricity was conditioned: and the great mathematical physicist, Max Born, formerly editor of the

PJiysilcalischen Zeitschrift.

The mathematical propensity of the Jews—traceable perhaps to the rigidly logical character of their training—continued the notable mediaeval tradition to which allusion has been made. Ozanam, the greatest !Prench mathematician of the seventeenth century, is generally